

Speaker's Race Now Underway

Speaker Tim Moore (R-Cleveland/Rutherford) let it be known he is not running for re-election in 2025 as the leader of the NC House.

He informed his Republican colleagues in the House he would not seek the post in a closed door conversation earlier in the summer and it was made official last month.

"Speaker Moore has been a great friend to tourism in North Carolina and to NCTIA," said NCTIA Executive Director Vince Chelena. "His leadership will be missed and we wish him well in the next phase of his political career."

Many political observers believe Speaker Moore will pursue a seat in Congress in 2024 although that decision will not be finalized until after the General Assembly redraws congressional districts this fall.

House Majority Leader John Bell (R-Wayne), House Rules Chairman Destin Hall (R-Caldwell/Watauga), and Rep. Keith Kidwell (R-Beaufort/Dare/Hyde/Pamlico) have announced their intentions to run for Speaker. House Appropriations Chair Jason Saine (R-Lincoln) said he is "50/50" on running for the top job in the House.

Offshore Wind Plans in NC on Hold

The article below is excerpted from two WRAL stories published on March 22 and August 9.

A potential wind lease area – a 700-square-mile zone about 30 miles off the coast near Kitty Hawk – was taken out of consideration by the Bureau of Ocean



Energy Management (BOEM) due to concerns from the U.S. Navy and Air Force that wind turbines could interfere with operations, including pilot training on aircraft carriers.

The decision comes after BOEM's announcement last week to exclude North Carolina from final plans for approved wind energy areas in the central Atlantic, instead choosing offshore wind areas off the coasts of Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia to advance to the next stages in the federal regulatory process.

In coastal communities that rely on tourism, fears of giant wind turbines looming over the shore is a top concern.

"It seems like an eyesore," one resident said in Tuesday's open house meeting hosted by the North Carolina Taskforce for Offshore Wind Economic Resource Strategies (NCTowers).

Last year, Duke Energy Renewables Wind and TotalEnergies Renewables USA, a company based in France, purchased two lease areas spanning 110,091 acres approximately 20 miles off the Brunswick County Coast.

"I think we heard a lot of questions from folks who are just concerned because they haven't heard a lot of information about the project," said Jennifer Mundt with the North Carolina Department of Commerce.

Marqueta Welton, chairwoman of NC TOWERS, said that decision would not will not slow the state's momentum towards ambitious goals for the industry. North Carolina aims to generate nearly three gigawatts of power from offshore wind by 2030.